

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 968  
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/8/13

Short Title: Increase Successful CTE Participation.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 18, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO INCREASE SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION IN CAREER AND  
3 TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSEWORK LEADING TO INDUSTRY  
4 CERTIFICATIONS AND CREDENTIALS TO ENHANCE THE EMPLOYABILITY OF  
5 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BY IMPLEMENTING A BONUS PROGRAM  
6 AVAILABLE TO LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

9 "(41) To Establish Career and Technical Education Incentives. – The State Board  
10 of Education shall establish, implement, and determine the impact of a  
11 career and technical education incentive program as provided under  
12 G.S. 115C-156.2."

13 **SECTION 1.(b)** Article 10 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by  
14 adding a new section to read:

15 **"§ 115C-156.2. Industry certifications and credentials program; Bonus Funds Program.**

16 It is the intent of the State to encourage students to enroll in and successfully complete  
17 rigorous coursework and credentialing processes in career and technical education to enable  
18 success in the workplace. To attain this goal, to the extent funds are made available for this  
19 purpose, students shall be supported to earn approved industry certifications and credentials  
20 and local school administrative units shall receive bonuses for each student who earns an  
21 approved industry certification or credential.

22 (1) Students enrolled in public schools and in career and technical education  
23 courses shall be exempt from paying any fees for one administration of  
24 examinations leading to industry certifications and credentials pursuant to  
25 rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

26 (2) Bonus funds shall be awarded to local school administrative units in  
27 amounts provided under subdivision (4) of this section, pursuant to rules  
28 adopted by the State Board of Education under this section. Each school year  
29 the State Board of Education shall make an award to those local school  
30 administrative units who have at least one student in one school having  
31 earned an industry-recognized certification or credential that has been  
32 identified by the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
33 Department of Commerce, as an occupation in high need of additional  
34 skilled employees at the time the student enrolled in a career and technical  
35 education course that leads to an industry certification or credential.



- 1           (3) Bonus funds shall be used by local school administrative units to (i)  
2 collaborate with local industries and employers to meet workforce needs and  
3 (ii) award bonuses to teachers of students earning approved industry  
4 certifications or credentials. No teacher shall be awarded a bonus pursuant to  
5 this subdivision that exceeds two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in any given  
6 school year. Direct instruction personnel bonuses shall be distributed as  
7 follows:
- 8           a. A bonus in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each  
9 student taught by a teacher who provided instruction in a course that  
10 led to the attainment of an industry certification with a two hundred  
11 fifty dollar (\$250.00) value ranking.
- 12           b. A bonus in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each student  
13 taught by a teacher who provided instruction in a course that led to  
14 the attainment of an industry certification with a five hundred dollar  
15 (\$500.00) value ranking.
- 16           (4) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Department of  
17 Commerce, shall rank each industry certification based on academic rigor  
18 and employment value, and award five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or two  
19 hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) to the local school administrative unit per  
20 student completing the industry certification based upon ranking. If funds  
21 appropriated from the General Assembly for this purpose are insufficient to  
22 provide bonuses for each industry certification that has been achieved, then  
23 the State Board of Education shall prorate the bonus award amounts. Fifty  
24 percent (50%) of the ranking shall be based on academic rigor and the  
25 remaining fifty percent (50%) on employment value. Academic rigor and  
26 employment value shall be based on the following elements:
- 27           a. Academic rigor shall be based on the number of instructional hours,  
28 including work experience or internship hours, required to earn the  
29 industry certification or credential, with a bonus given for  
30 coursework that also provides community college credit.
- 31           b. Employment value shall be based on the entry wage, growth rate in  
32 employment for each occupational category, and average annual  
33 openings for the primary occupation linked with the industry  
34 certification or credential.
- 35           (5) Each school year, at such time as agreed to by the Department of Commerce  
36 and the State Board of Education, the Department of Commerce shall  
37 provide the State Board of Education with a list of those occupations in high  
38 need of additional skilled employees. If the occupations identified in such  
39 list are not substantially the same as those occupations identified in the list  
40 from the prior year, reasonable notice of such changes shall be provided to  
41 local school administrative units.
- 42           (6) Local school administrative units shall consult with their local industries,  
43 employers, and workforce development boards to identify industry  
44 certification and credentials that the local school administrative unit may  
45 offer to best meet State and local workforce needs."

46           **SECTION 1.(c)** The State Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative  
47 Education Oversight Committee by September 1 of each year beginning in 2014 on the number  
48 of students in career and technical education courses who earned (i) community college credit  
49 and (ii) related industry certifications and credentials. In 2015, the report shall also include the  
50 names of local school administrative units receiving bonus funds and the amount of bonus  
51 funds received by each local school administrative unit.

1           **SECTION 2.(a)** It is the intent of the General Assembly to appropriate from the  
2 General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of one million two hundred  
3 fifty-two thousand one hundred fifty-seven dollars (\$1,252,157) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year  
4 to cover the cost of industry certifications and credentials that have been ranked by the State  
5 Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Commerce, by academic rigor and  
6 employment value. It is the intent of the General Assembly to appropriate from the General  
7 Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of seven million eleven thousand two  
8 hundred dollars (\$7,011,200) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to cover the cost of industry  
9 certifications, credentials, and bonus funding awarded to local school administrative units as  
10 provided in this act.

11           **SECTION 2.(b)** Nothing in this act shall require the General Assembly to  
12 appropriate funds to implement it.

13           **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective only if the General Assembly  
14 appropriates funds to implement it in the amounts set out in Section 2 of this act for the  
15 2013-2015 fiscal biennium. If such funds are appropriated, this act becomes effective July 1,  
16 2013, and applies beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.